IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 12-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend Claims 2, 7, 8-10 and 11 as follows:

B1

2. (Amended) A DNA ~~encoding~~ the protein [according to claim 1] the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.

B2

7. (Amended) A process for producing a protein comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, comprising:

selecting [culturing] the transformant according to claim 6;

culturing the transformant in a medium to produce and accumulate the protein [according to claim] in [the] culture; and

recovering said protein from the [resulting] culture.

8. (Amended) An [oligonuleotide] oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence of the DNA according to any one of claims 2 to 4.

9. (Amended) An oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a nucleotide sequence complementary to the DNA according to any one of claims 2 to 4.

10. (Amended) A method for detecting mRNA [derived from the protein] corresponding to a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 [according to claim 1], comprising [using] selecting the oligonucleotide according to claim 8; and using said oligonucleotide in a Northern blot.

11. (Amended) A method for detecting mRNA [derived from the protein] corresponding to a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 [according to claim 1], comprising [using] selecting the oligonucleotide according to claim 9; and using said olignucleotide in a Northern blot.

Please add new claims 22-29 as follows:

--22. A composition comprising the oligonucleotide

according to claim 8 and buffer.

23. The oligonucleotide according to claim 8 which comprises a 40 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence.

24. The oligonucleotide according to claim 9 which comprises a 40 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence.

25. The oligonucleotide according to claim 8 which corresponds to a 5'-end side nucleotide sequence.

26. The oligonucleotide according to claim 23 which corresponds to a 5'-end side nucleotide sequence.

27. The oligonucleotide according to claim 9 which corresponds to a 3'-end side nucleotide sequence.

28. The oligonucleotide according to claim 24 which corresponds to a 3'-end side nucleotide sequence.

29. A composition comprising the oligonucleotide according to claim 9 and buffer.--